

01-22-04

PTO/SB/21 (03-03)

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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/618,353
	Filing Date	July 11, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Jean-Marie Mathias
	Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	F-5932

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to a Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
Remarks Other Enclosures: - PTO-1449 (8 Pages) - PTO/SB/08A (4 Pages) - Cited Foreign References - Return Postcard		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or individual	Andrew G. Kofonayets
Signature	
Date	January 20, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV 321711715 US

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as XXXXXX in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, XXXXXX on this date: January 20, 2004 Express Mail P.O. Box 1450 - Alexandria, VA 22313-1450			
Typed or printed	Armando Ching		
Signature		Date	January 20, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. F-5932

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Jean-Marie Mathias

Serial No.: 10/618,353

Filed: July 11, 2003

Examiner:

Art Unit:

For: Needle Protector

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

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Date of Deposit: January 20, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office Box Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NAME: Armando Ching
(TYPED OR PRINTED)

SIGNATURE: Armando Ching

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicants hereby call the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application.


No inference should be drawn that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in

the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicants also respectfully reserve the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

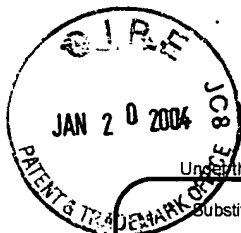
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is required. If it is determined that a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew G. Kolomayets
Registration No. 33,723

COOK, ALEX, MCFARRON, MANZO,
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PTO/SB/08A (04-03)

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 4

Compleat if Known

Application Number	10/618,353
Filing Date	July 11, 2003
First Named Inventor	Jean-Marie Mathias
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	F-5932

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	1	US- 4,693,708	09-15-1987	Wanderer et al.	
	2	US- 4,927,415	05-22-1990	Brodsky	
	3	US- 4,943,283	07-24-1990	Hogan	
	4	US- 5,067,490	11-26-1991	Haber	
	5	US- 5,086,780	02-11-1992	Schmitt	
	6	US- 5,120,320	06-09-1992	Fayngold	
	7	US- 5,171,231	12-15-1992	Heiliger	
	8	US- 5,176,650	01-05-1993	Haining	
	9	US- 5,188,119	02-23-1993	Sunderland	
	10	US- 5,192,275	03-09-1993	Burns	
	11	US- 5,197,956	03-30-1993	Brizuela	
	12	US- RE 34,223	04-13-1993	Bonaldo	
	13	US- 5,242,417	09-07-1993	Paudler	
	14	US- 5,290,264	03-01-1994	Utterberg	
	15	US- 5,312,359	05-17-1994	Wallace	
	16	US- D353,456	12-13-1994	Fayngold et al.	
	17	US- 5,382,240	01-17-1995	Lam	
	18	US- 5,401,250	03-28-1995	Shields	
	19	US- 5,429,612	07-04-1995	Berthier	

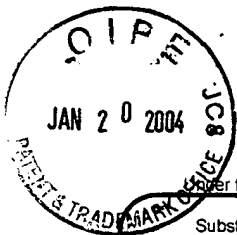
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet 2 of 4

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/618,353
Filing Date	July 11, 2003
First Named Inventor	Jean-Marie Mathias
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	F-5932

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	20	US- 5,429,613	07-04-1995	D'Amico	
	21	US- 5,495,855	03-05-1996	Dudar et al.	
	22	US- 5,498,241	03-12-1996	Fabozzi	
	23	US- 5,501,672	03-26-1996	Firth et al.	
	24	US- 5,554,130	09-10-1996	McDonald et al.	
	25	US- 5,562,636	10-08-1996	Utterberg	
	26	US- 5,562,637	10-08-1996	Utterberg	
	27	US- 5,643,220	07-01-1997	Cosme	
	28	US- 5,672,160	09-30-1997	Osterlind et al.	
	29	US- 5,672,161	09-30-1997	Allen et al.	
	30	US- 5,681,295	10-28-1997	Gyure et al.	
	31	US- 5,693,022	12-02-1997	Haynes	
	32	US- 5,704,917	01-06-1998	Utterberg	
	33	US- 5,704,920	01-06-1998	Gyure et al.	
	34	US- 5,704,924	01-06-1998	Utterberg et al.	
	35	US- 5,735,827	04-07-1998	Adwers	
	36	US- 5,746,718	05-05-1998	Steyn	
	37	US- 5,772,638	06-30-1998	Utterberg et al.	
	38	US- 5,795,339	08-18-1998	Erskine	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

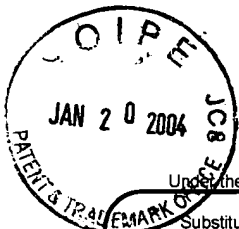
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
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Sheet 3 of 4

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	39	US- 5,800,400	09-01-1998	Hogan	
	39	US- 5,810,775	09-22-1998	Shaw	
	40	US- 5,817,064	10-06-1998	DeMarco et al.	
	41	US- 5,846,227	12-08-1998	Osterlind	
	42	US- 5,851,196	12-22-1998	Arnett	
	43	US- 5,891,098	04-06-1999	Huang	
	44	US- 5,891,099	04-06-1999	Nakajima et al.	
	45	US- 5,897,508	04-27-1999	Konrad	
	46	US- 5,899,886	05-04-1999	Cosme	
	47	US- 5,951,523	09-14-1999	Osterlind et al.	
	48	US- 6,013,059	01-11-2000	Jacobs	
	49	US- 6,042,570	03-28-2000	Bell et al.	
	50	US- 6,093,170	07-25-2000	Hsu et al.	
	51	US- 6,120,482	09-19-2000	Szabo	
	52	US- 6,165,157	12-26-2000	Dillon et al.	
	53	US- 6,193,694	02-27-2001	Bell	
	54	US- 6,200,294	03-13-2001	Liu	
	55	US- 6,235,005	05-22-2001	Chang et al.	
	56	US- 6,235,006	05-22-2001	Dillon et al.	

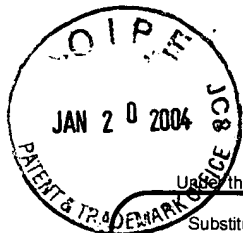
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Sheet 4 of 4

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First Named Inventor	Jean-Marie Mathias
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	57	US- 6,238,375	05-29-2001	Powell	
	58	US- 6,287,278	09-11-2001	Woehr et al.	
	59	US- 6,293,925	09-25-2001	Safabash et al.	
	60	US- 6,302,868	10-16-2001	Mohammad	
	61	US- D449,687	10-23-2001	Hommann et al.	
	62	US- 6,309,376	10-30-2001	Alesi	
	63	US- 6,319,233	11-20-2001	Jansen	
	64	US- 6,325,781	12-04-2001	Takagi et al.	
	65	US- 6,328,713	12-11-2001	Hollister	
	66	US- 6,332,875	12-25-2001	Inkpen et al.	
	67	US- 6,355,021	03-12-2002	Nielsen et al.	
	68	US- 6,632,201	10-14-2003	Mathias et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

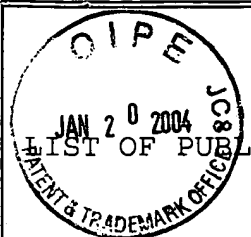
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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT

Attorney Docket No.
F-5932

Serial No.
10/618,353

Applicants
Jean-Marie Mathias

Filing Date
July 11, 2003

Group

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	2,857,912	10/28/58	Feinstone et al.			10/27/55
	3,323,523	06/06/67	Scislowicz et al.			11/18/64
	3,568,673	03/09/71	Cowley			11/04/68
	3,572,334	03/23/71	Petterson			11/27/68
	3,595,230	07/27/71	Suyeoka et al.			07/25/68
	3,610,240	10/05/71	Harautuneian			06/13/67
	RE 27,797	10/30/73	Sorenson et al.			06/08/66
	3,910,272	10/07/75	Forberg			11/15/73
	4,068,659	01/17/78	Moorehead			07/12/76
	4,170,993	10/16/79	Alvarez			03/13/78
	4,329,989	05/18/82	Dallons et al.			02/23/81
	4,417,887	11/29/83	Koshi			09/28/82
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	4,573,976	03/04/86	Sampson et al.			05/24/84
	4,631,057	12/23/86	Mitchell			12/17/8

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EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANS- LATION
	729,419	03/08/66	Canada			Y
	2 263 789	03/13/74	France			N
	0 265 159 A2	04/27/88	EPO			Y
	WO 90/03196	04/05/90	PCT			Y
	0 353 916 A1	07/02/90	EPO			Y

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT	<u>Attorney Docket No.</u> F-5932	<u>Serial No.</u> 10/618,353
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	<u>Filing Date</u> July 11, 2003	<u>Group</u>

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	4,631,058	12/23/86	Raines			06/24/85
	4,643,722	02/17/87	Smith, Jr.			06/20/85
	4,664,654	05/12/87	Strauss			03/07/86
	4,676,783	06/30/87	Jagger et al.			09/03/85
	4,731,059	03/15/88	Wanderer et al.			10/14/86
	4,735,618	04/05/88	Hagen			
	4,737,143	04/12/88	Russell			05/12/86
	4,747,836	05/31/88	Luther			07/17/87
	4,790,828	12/13/88	Dombrowski et al.			08/07/87
	4,820,282	04/11/89	Hogan			09/29/87
	4,840,613	06/1989	Balbierz			
	4,840,619	06/20/89	Hughes			05/26/88
	4,842,587	06/27/89	Poncy			07/15/87
	4,867,172	09/19/89	Haber et al.			
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		<p>Abstract of Japanese Patent Application No. 63-036413 (JP 8836413), filed February 18, 1988.</p>

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
<p>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP form. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.</p>	